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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**

<http://fishandgame.lacountycommissions.info/>

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, B-50, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1431 Fax (213) 633-5102

To enrich lives through effective and caring service

December 11, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

13 December 17, 2017

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FISH AND GAME PROPAGATION FUND GRANT AWARD
(THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Recommending approval to award grant funds from the Fish and Game Commission to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM), to replace ripped wetsuits and worn shoes for the RCD Stream Team and staff biologists.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Approve the Fish and Game Propagation Fund Grant request in the amount of \$3,450 to the RCDSMM to replace ripped wetsuits and worn shoes, as well as provide hoods to the RCD Stream Team and staff biologists (divers) who monitor the abundance and distribution of endangered southern steelhead trout in Malibu Creek.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Since 2005, the RCD Stream Team and staff biologists have been monitoring the abundance and distribution of endangered southern steelhead trout in Malibu Creek by conducting monthly snorkel surveys. This is the only consistent monitoring of this population and has provided important management information to National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Southern Steelhead Recovery program, as well as, to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. RCDSMM activities in Malibu include maintaining a water quality data sonde, which has been crucial to understanding the highly dynamic interactions between water quality and fish populations. The monitoring work is supported by a grant from the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program.

Unfortunately, that grant source does not provide sufficient funding to replace worn wetsuits and dive gear. Because of the presence of invasive New Zealand mud snails in the Malibu Creek, all dive equipment used there cannot be used in any other creek to prevent the spread of these problematic invaders.

Wetsuits, dive hoods, water shoes and dive lights are all essential equipment needed to conduct snorkel surveys for fish monitoring. While RCDSMM does its best to treat the equipment with care and repair small holes when possible, normal wear and tear results in holes that makes diving very cold during the winter months. Exposure to the cold water makes for a very long, difficult work day for the divers and can reduce their accuracy in spotting fish.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Providing funds for this program is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals No. 1 & 3 (Operational Effectiveness & Integrated Services Delivery). RCDSMM provide education programs and conduct research that assists in developing management and policy plans.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no impact on the General Fund. The approved expenditure will be charged to the Fish and Game Propagation Fund, which has sufficient funds to cover the cost.

The Los Angeles County Fish and Game Propagation Fund is financed from a percentage of penalty assessments collected relating to fish and game code violations in Los Angeles County.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 13100 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code establishes guidelines for the expenditure of fines levied for fish and game code violations. It includes enhancing fish and game activities including propagation, protection and restoration; supporting fish and wildlife projects; and furthering research and education in areas related to fish and wildlife.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This Board action enhances the conservation and the propagation of fish and game, thus benefiting the County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Hybarger".

JOHN H. HYBARGER

Chairman

JHH:bf

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

GRANT APPLICATION TITLE PAGE

TITLE OF PROJECT/PROGRAM Malibu Creek Fish Monitoring

NAME OF ORGANIZATION RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains
[As it appears on (501) (c) (3) IRS Letter]

ADDRESS P.O. Box 638

CITY Aqoura Hills STATE CA ZIP CODE 91376

TELEPHONE NUMBER 818/597-8627 FAX NUMBER 818/597-8630

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$3450

BOARD CHAIRPERSON Dennis Washburn

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Clark Stevens

CONTACT PERSON Rosi Dagit

TITLE Senior Conservation Biologist

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) ofc: 310/455-7528, cell: 310/488-6381

AUDITED TOTAL INCOME 636737 AUDITED TOTAL EXPENSES 608959

FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2011 AND ENDING 2012


SIGNATURE OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON _____ DATE _____

Note to Applicant: Please complete this title page and attach all grant application materials prior to submission.

One Page Project Summary

Since 2005, the RCD Stream Team and staff biologists have been monitoring the abundance and distribution of endangered southern steelhead trout in Malibu Creek by conducting monthly snorkel surveys. This is the only consistent monitoring of this population and has provided important management information to NOAA's Southern Steelhead Recovery program, as well as to the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. The monitoring work is supported by a grant from the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Unfortunately, that grant source does not provide sufficient funding to replace worn wetsuits and dive equipment. Because of the presence of invasive New Zealand mud snails in Malibu Creek, all dive equipment used there cannot be used in any other creek to prevent spread of these problematic invaders.

Snorkel surveys are more accurately described as snorkel yoga crawls. Each diver starts at the downstream end of a pool by crawling carefully into the water without disturbing the sediment. Using dive lights, divers contort themselves under boulders and into crevices in search of trout. Wetsuits and dive gear are quickly worn by the abrasive boulder substrate in shallow reaches of the creek. Below are some photos of how torn up the wetsuits get in less than 2 years, even when treated with great care. This grant request would provide funding to replace ripped wetsuits and worn shoes, as well as provide hoods to keep divers warm during the cold winter months.

Background on Applicant's Organization

Purpose and goals:

The RCD of the Santa Monica Mountain has been serving our constituents for over 50 years, providing education programs, conducting research that assists in developing management and policy plans, and implementing on-the-ground endangered species and ecosystem restoration.

Brief summary of current activities:

The RCD Stream Team and staff biologists conduct monthly snorkel surveys in Arroyo Sequit, Malibu and Topanga Creeks to monitor the abundance and distribution of endangered southern steelhead trout. Our activities in Malibu include maintaining a water quality data sonde, which has been crucial to understanding the highly dynamic interactions between water quality and fish populations. The LA County Fish and Game Commission has supported that effort by providing probes and calibration reagents to keep the sonde functional.

Geographic area served:

The RCDSMM boundaries extend from Encino to Thousand Oak, from the Chatsworth Reservoir to the ocean, and Catalina Island. This dive equipment will only be used in Malibu Creek, due to potential contamination with New Zealand mud snails.

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Major sources and dollar amounts of corporate, foundation and government support during current and past fiscal year:

A grant from the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program provides the major funding (\$269,466.00) for the monthly snorkel surveys, however it has an extremely limited budget to cover dive equipment. The grant will continue until March 2015.

History of all grants received from the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission:

January 2012 Malibu Water Quality Probe Maintenance \$3,977

March 2012 Laptop for Wildlife Research \$2,500

March 2012 Microscopes for Marine Science Program \$2,730

February 2013 Underwater ultrasound DIDSON camera equipment \$2,000

Project Information

Statement of justification of need:

Wetsuits, dive hoods, water shoes and dive lights are all essential equipment needed to conduct snorkel surveys for fish monitoring. While we do our best to treat the equipment with care, and repair small holes as possible, normal wear and tear results in holes that make for very cold divers during the winter months. Exposure to the cold water makes for a very long, difficult work day for the divers and can reduce their accuracy in spotting fish. Providing replacement gear is really helpful.

Statement of purpose and goals:

NOAA estimates that there are no more than 500 adult anadromous southern steelhead remaining between San Luis Obispo and the Mexican border. Monitoring the few populations remaining is critical to the development of a recovery plan for this species. Our snorkel surveys in the Santa Monica Bay creeks provides important data necessary to understanding the populations dynamics.

Action plan to meet objectives:

The funds provided by this grant will replace worn dive equipment and support the on-going effort to continue our monthly surveys.

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Statement of how the objectives advance the propagation and protection of fish and wildlife:

Developing a recovery plan for the endangered southern steelhead trout requires solid information on their current status. The monthly surveys we conduct are the only source of data for Malibu Creek.

Project budget and timetable:

All purchases will be made when funds become available.

wetsuits (6 @ \$275 each)	\$1650
hooded vests (6 @ \$120 each)	\$ 720
Teva water shoes (4 @ \$140 each)	\$ 600 560
dive lights (4 @\$99 each)	\$ 480 396
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$3,450 3326

Sources of other support for project:

At present we have no other funding available to replace worn equipment.

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Current status of project:

Snorkel surveys are on-going and will continue until March 2015 at least.

Cash flow analysis of the expenditure of project funds:

All equipment will be purchased upon receipt of funds.

Proposed method of evaluating results:

Attached are some photos showing the present condition of the wetsuits. We would be happy to provide the commission with photos of happy divers in wetsuits without leaky holes!

Plans for funding on-going project (if applicable):

Our goal is to complete at least 20 years of consecutive monitoring of the creeks in the Santa Monica Bay. This will provide important management and planning information useful to support the recovery of endangered southern steelhead trout. Hopefully our future grant requests to the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program will support the bulk of this effort.

Progress reports (bi-yearly or upon completion, whichever occurs first):

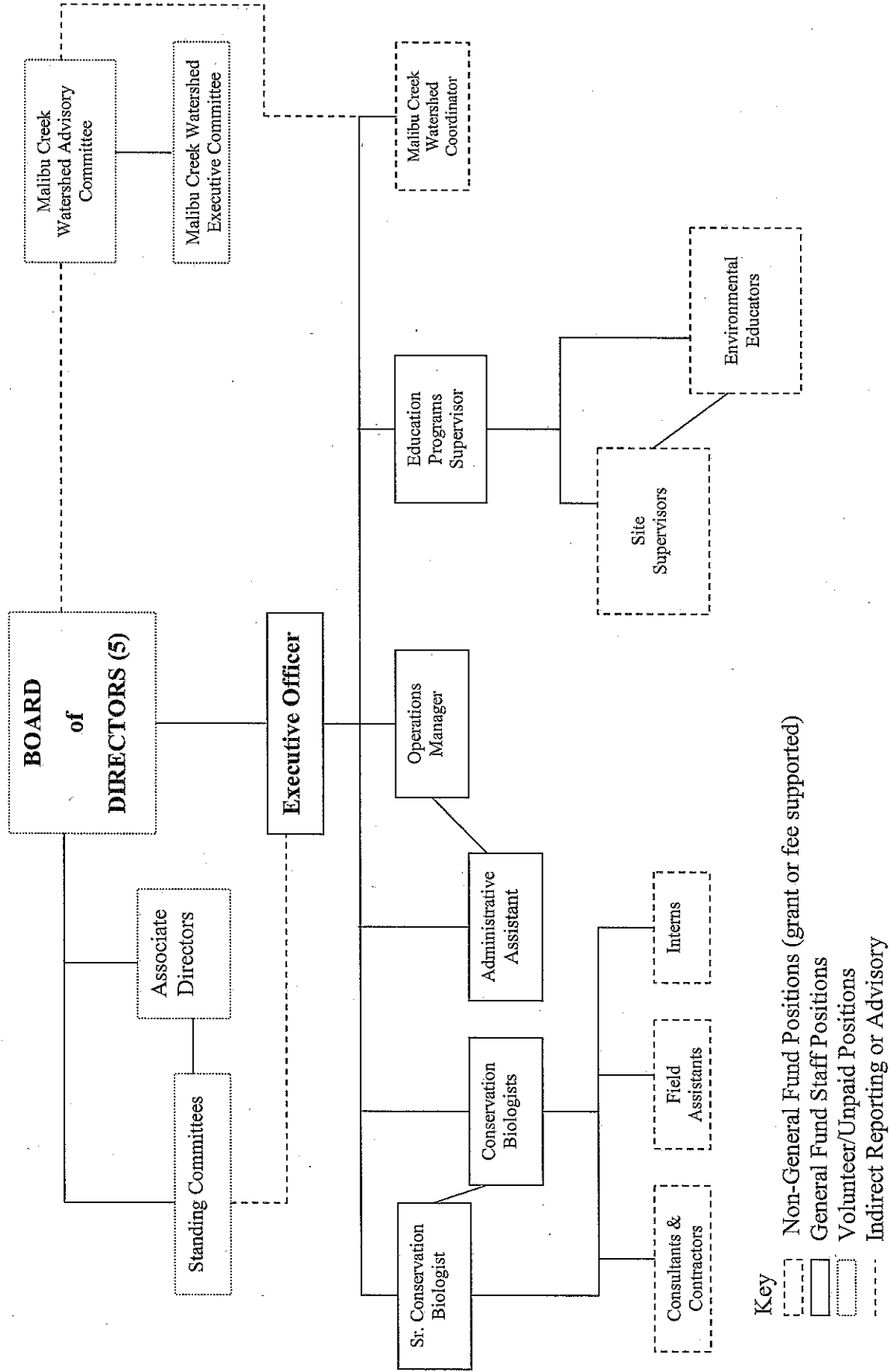
A photo report will be provided to the commission once all equipment has been purchased and is in use.

Please Attach the Following Supporting Documents:

- Description of Organizational Structure or Organizational Chart
- Copy of the Latest IRS Determination Letter of Tax Exempt Status under Section 501(c) (3).
- Most Recent Audited Financial Statement
- Most Recent IRS Form 990

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

ORGANIZATION CHART





RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF THE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

818.597.8627 | phone
818.597.8630 | fax
info@rcdsmm.org

30000 Mulholland Highway, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Mail: PO Box 638, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-0638

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clark Stevens

September 19, 2013

County of Los Angeles
Fish and Game Commission

Dear Commissioners,

In compliance with the request for supporting documents relevant to the fiscal status of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica (RCDSMM), we provide the following information.

The RCDSMM, a subdivision of the State of California, is a local government special district organized under division 9 of the CA Public Resources Code.

Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 115 states that the gross income of a subdivision of a state is not taxable by the Federal government.

IRC Section 170(c)(1) states that contributions to subdivisions of a state are tax deductible as long as they are used for public purposes.

Therefore, the RCDSMM does not submit forms or pay federal income tax and contributions to the RCDSMM are tax deductible.

We appreciate the support of the Commission for our efforts to provide important resource management information that will help protect and preserve the Santa Monica Mountains and its wildlife.

Sincerely,

John Hendra
Operations Manager

Malibu Creek Fish Monitoring
RCDSMM
Funding request September 2013

Whe we need new wetsuits, shoes and dive equipment!



Wetsuits partially repaired



Wetsuit beyond repair



Well used shoes



Challenging snorkel conditions!



Snorkeling in Malibu Creek is really hard on the gear!